

Town of Wenham
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of Tuesday, March 21, 2006 ~7:30 p.m.
Bessie Buker School ~School Street

APPROVED BY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AT THEIR MEETING OF

April 4, 2006

Present: Tom Tanous, Chair; Peter Hersee; Don Pickard
Also Present: Jeff Chelgren, Town Administrator; Catherine Tinsley, Secretary

Mr. Tanous opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and identified the agenda.

Ken Whittaker addressed the Selectmen saying he was representing the Hamilton-Wenham Open Land Trust to talk about state grant money available to municipalities to protect key parcels of land that are important to drinking water supplies, by providing matching funds up to \$500,000. Referring to the Dearborn property which is expected to be sold by the current owner New England Power Company, Mr. Whittaker said that the Hamilton/Wenham Open Land Trust will help the town with the application process. Identifying that properties valued in the excess of \$500,000 are required to have two appraisals of the property, Mr. Whittaker recommended that two full appraisals be done on the Dearborn property. There was a discussion regarding teaming up with the Salem/Beverly Water Board to enhance the application, noting that the land being purchased may not need to be in the same municipality as the applicants. The application deadline is being pushed back from June 1st to an unknown date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unsung Heroine Award – Congratulations to Ann Brainard & Liz Furber

Mr. Hersee congratulated Ms. Brainard and Ms. Furber who recently received the Unsung Heroine Award for their efforts in organizing and acquiring two trailer loads of supplies for Hurricane Katrina victims.

PRESENTATIONS BY GUESTS OR STAFF

Fire Department – Chief Bob Blanchard and Captain Baxter were present.

Chief Blanchard identified that the state is mandating that carbon monoxide detectors be installed in every home by March 31, 2006, explaining that this new law will affect all homes like the law requiring smoke detectors.

Chief Blanchard told the Selectmen that he is pleased with the new law and the protection the detectors will provide citizens. He also said that while detectors are required by law within ten feet of every bedroom in a home, eventually inspections will only be for home being sold. There will also be educational efforts undertaken by the Fire Department including handouts as appropriate.

Captain Baxter reviewed the Fire Marshal's new mandated fees, effective March 31, 2006. He said that the increased schedule of fees has been printed for residents and are available at the permitting office in town hall. The Selectmen reviewed the schedule of increased fees.

Mr. Hersee moved that the schedule of fees as listed for the fire department be effective March 31, 2006 in Wenham

Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Public Hearing Officer Requirement

Captain Baxter and Chief Blanchard told the BOS that there is a plan in motion by local communities to have a shared Public Hearing Officer who will hold responsible those people fined for work done illegally without a permit, (i.e. installation/ removal of an oil tank, alarm systems, sprinkler systems).

Brush Fire Truck

Regarding the town's new brush truck, Chief Blanchard updated the Selectmen saying that the truck is in the process of being built and should be in town by June 06. He went on to say that at least one local community is interested in the old brush truck.

After a brief discussion the Selectmen requested that the Chief and the Town Administrator determine the value of the old brush truck and return to the BOS for a decision regarding disposition.

No further action was taken at this time.

Chief Blanchard told the Selectmen that firefighters Jeff Baxter, Dan Sullivan and Leny Tuneburg went to the factory where the Quint Ladder truck is being built to check on the progress of the assembly and will return again for a final inspection before it is delivered and accepted by the town.

Training on the Quint will begin as soon as it arrives.

Request for Approval

Mr. Hersee moved to allow the Friends of the Counsel of Aging to hold a bake sale on May 6th as requested, at the Recreation Building.

Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Hersee moved to allow the Friends of the Library to post sandwich board signs for their book sale, on the corner of Main Street/Arbor Street and Main Street/Linden Street. Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Annual Appointments

Mr. Pickard moved to appoint Charles Brett as Building Inspector for the period April 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007.

Mr. Hersee seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Hersee briefly reviewed the 15 articles currently on the May 6th town meeting warrant, noting that the order of the articles could change and that no positions on the warrant have been taken by the BOS or the Finance Committee.

There was a brief discussion regarding the approval of Liquor Licenses. After discussing the number of wine and malt beverage licenses, one day licenses, and full liquor licenses, the Selectmen agreed that four full liquor licenses and ten one-day licenses be included in the article.

Mr. Chelgren will report back to the Selectmen regarding legal information related to liquor licensing.

A general discussion followed regarding the order of the articles.

Boulder Lane Committee

Mr. Chelgren updated the Selectmen regarding Boulder Lane, saying that the Boulder lane Committee has talked to three different developers who are interested in helping the town with plans for the land.

He stated that although the Committee is not committing to any one developer, they are requesting authorization to continue discussing various options with the developer who is an adjacent property owner to the Boulder Lane property.

It was the consensus of the Selectmen that the Committee should continue discussions with the adjacent property owner/developer.

The selectmen will receive updates from the Boulder Lane Committee every two months or as needed.

REPORTS

Wenham Issues

Route 97 Traffic light – The next Committee meeting is on Thursday, March 23 at 3 pm.

Town Administrator

Mr. Chelgren told the Selectmen that the Pleasant Pond Neighborhood Association is requesting that Pleasant Pond beach parking stickers be available for purchase at town meeting.

The Selectmen agreed that the sales be held outside due to the congestion in the foyer.

Mr. Chelgren said that the Pleasant Pond Neighborhood Association has also requested that the gates to Pleasant Pond beach be closed to traffic at night.

The BOS agreed that the gate can be closed at sundown effective immediately, and requested the name of the designee who is closing the gate.

Chairman

Mr. Tanous said that the League of Women Voters is holding a poster contest in the elementary schools to promote recycling and is requesting that a Selectman participate and be one of the judges for the contest. The judging will take place on April 12, 2006. Mr. Pickard agreed to be the designee.

Mr. Tanous said that the town's annual reports will be delivered by the Boy Scouts on April 21st & 22nd.

MINUTES

Mr. Hersee moved to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of March 7, 2006, with edits as indicated.

Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Hersee moved to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of March 14, 2006, with edits as indicated.

Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Hersee moved to approve the Board of Selectmen executive session minutes "A" of March 7, 2006, with edits as indicated.

Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Hersee moved to approve the Board of Selectmen executive session minutes "B" of March 7, 2006, with edits as indicated.

Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Hersee moved to approve the Board of Selectmen executive session minutes of March 14, 2006, with edits as indicated.

Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

8:42 p.m. - Mr. Hersee moved to adjourn and it was unanimous to do so.